CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for receiving, preserving and supplying bags of blood, comprising:

- a cabinet for containing all the components of the apparatus,
- a refrigerated space for containing the bags,
- a magazine comprising a plurality of cells, each capable of containing a single bag, the magazine being housed inside the refrigerated space, each of the cells being identified by a cell code,
- at least one door for allowing access by an operator to the cells,
- a movement system housed inside the cabinet and capable of moving, preferably rotating, the cells,
- a cooling system housed inside the cabinet and capable of cooling the refrigerated space,
- a data-processing system housed inside the cabinet, capable of controlling the movement system and the cooling system, and capable of controlling the receiving, preservation and supply of the bags,
- a keyboard and a screen, both connected to the processing system, and both placed at the walls of the cabinet.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, capable of receiving, preserving and supplying bags of blood equipped with bag identification means, comprising a reading device for reading bag identification means, said device being connected to the processing system, housed inside the cabinet and placed at the walls of the cabinet.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the cells are structured in superposed levels, and wherein the cell code is univocal.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the cell code is independent of the level in which the cell is located and of the position of the cell in the level.

5. An apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, wherein cell identification means capable of retrieving and/or containing cell codes, preferably bar codes, are placed at the cells.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5, comprising at least one reading device for reading cell identification means and connected to the processing system, and at least one corresponding movement member for said reading device controlled by the processing system, said device and said member being housed inside the refrigerated space.

7. An apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a machine space separate from the refrigerated space is provided and contains the movement system, the cooling system and the processing system.

8. An apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, comprising a metal container capable of completely containing the processing system.

9. An apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, comprising a network port of the wire-free type for connecting the processing system to a computer network.

10. An apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, comprising a modem of the wire-free type for connecting the processing system to a telephone network.

11. An apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 10, comprising a door which extends from the first to the last level of the magazine, wherein one cell of each level is notional, and wherein the movement system is capable of rotating a single level at a time.

12. An apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 10, comprising a number of doors equal to the number of levels of the magazine, wherein the movement system is capable of rotating the whole magazine, wherein the processing system is capable of releasing the opening of a single door at a time during normal operation.

13. An apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the processing system comprises a sub-system for thermal control of the refrigerated space, said sub-system being independent of, but in communication with, the processing system.

14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the thermal control sub-system is equipped with an emergency power source.

15. An apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the data processing system comprises a control program equipped with a communication module capable of communicating with a management program typically by way of a network port.

16. An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the communication module is a software element independent of the control program and is capable of being actuated by the control program during the execution of the control program.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the control program is equipped with a software interface that is fixed and predetermined for interacting with the communication module.